

Please amend recited claims as follows.

1. (Twice Amended) A liquid-cooled casting die for a continuous billet casting comprising:

a form-giving casting die body, made of a material of high heat conductivity, having at least one broad side wall having at least one surface, a part of which defines a meniscus, the casting die body having a pouring side and a cooling-surface side, which cooling surface side is in contact with a bath.

wherein the casting die body has a cooling zone in thermally and mechanically stressed areas of the die body, the mold surface in said cooling zone having a rate of heat flow 5 - 40% greater than that in the remainder of the surface of the casting die providing increased cooling rate in the critically stressed areas the casting die.

3. (Twice Amended) The casting die as recited in claim 1, further comprising a die cavity having two broad-side walls situated opposite each other and two narrow-side walls limiting the width of the billet forming a cross-section of the die cavity; said broad-side walls connected to a base and forming meniscus thereon.

5. (Twice Amended) The casting die as recited in claim 3, wherein the die cavity at the first end has at least one hollow space which becomes smaller in the direction of the second end.

9. (Amended) The casting die as recited in claim 1, wherein the rate of heat flow in the cooling zone is 10-20% greater than in the other areas of the bath surface.

10. (Twice Amended) The casting die as recited in claim 1, wherein the wall thickness separating the pouring side from the bath is reduced in thermally and mechanically stressed areas of the broad-side walls.

11. (Twice Amended) The casting die as recited in claim 10, wherein the wall separating the pouring side and the cooling surface side of the bath surface area has a thickness that is reduced by 1 to 6 mm compared to the wall thickness in other areas.

12. (Twice Amended) The casting die as recited in claim 1, wherein the casting die body, in a direction running parallel to the direction from the first end to the second end, further comprises at least one groove-shaped coolant channel or cooling bore holes, the spacing between